

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 04942 231834Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 CA-01 SCS-06 H-01
INR-10 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 TRSE-00
COME-00 OES-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 DODE-00 /075 W
-----030879 231842Z /72

O 231625Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8008
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO IMMEDIATE

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SAO PAULO FOR AMBASSADOR SAYRE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, CPRS, BR
SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS INCIDENT STEMMING FROM
UNAUTHORIZED SHRIMPING IN BRAZILIAN WATERS

REF: BRASILIA 4766

SUMMARY: REFTEL CITED BRAZILIAN REPORTS OF PRESENCE OF LARGE
NUMBERS OF UNAUTHORIZED US SHRIMP BOATS IN BRAZILIAN
WATERS, FORECAST POSSIBILITY OF CONSIDERABLY MORE
VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY BY BRAZILIAN NAVY, AND
RECOMMENDED THAT US BOAT OWNERS BE WARNED. ACTING
FORREIGN MINISTER DIARIO CASTRO ALVES CALLED DCM IN
MORNING JUNE 23 (AMBASSADOR IS IN SAO PAULO) TO (1)
EMPHAIZE EXTREME GRAVITY OF SITUATION, AS US BOATS
CONTINUE THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITY, FLOUTING BRAZILIAN
AUTHORITY AND EVADING ARREST; (2) COMMUNICATE
BRAZILIAN NAVY'S DEEP CONCERN THAT A SERIOUS
INCIDENT COULD DEVELOP MOMENTARILY; (3) REQUEST
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USG INTERVENTION BEFORE THE WEEKEND TO DEFUSE THIS
CRITICAL SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. CITING DETAILS, AMB CASTRO ALVES SAID THAT THERE
HAS BEEN A "CONSTANT PRESENCE" OF UNAUTHORIZED
US SHRIMP BOATS IN BRAZILIAN WATERS OFF AMAPA. NAVY
HAS IDENTIFIED FIVE: MISS DIANA, DOLPHIN II,

CRUSADER, Sourd II (SIC), AND TRADE WINDS. IN THE PAST WHEN ILLEGAL SHRIMPERS SOUGHT TO EVADE ARREST BRAZILIAN NAVAL VESSELS WERE UNABLE TO CATCH THEM, BUT NOW THE NAVY HAS PUT MORE POWERFUL UNITS INTO ITS PATROL FORCE INCLUDING A DESTROYER AND A FRIGATE. ONE OF THESE UNITS FIRED THREE WARNING SHOTS YESTERDAY ACROSS THE BOW OF DOLPHIN II, BUT THE MASTER PAID NO ATTENTION AND BOAT EVENTUALLY ESCAPED. TODAY (JUNE 23) THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE REPORTS THIRTY-FIVE ILLEGAL US SHRIMPERS IN THE AREA.

2. CASTRO ALVES SAID THAT ITAMARATY HAS INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, NOW IN WASHINGTON, OF SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION. IT IS APPROACHING USG NOW IN HOPES THAT FAST ACTION CAN BE TAKEN TO HELP DEFUSE CRISIS BEFORE THE WEEK-END.

3. RESPONDING DCM PROMISED INFORM WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY. NOTING THAT BOATS ARE NOT UNDER USG CONTROL, HE CALLED ATTENTION TO LIMITATIONS ON OUR ABILITY TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE WASHINGTON WOULD PROMPTLY TAKE WHATEVER MEASURES ARE APPROPRIATE. HE URGED BRAZILIAN NAVY SHOW RESTRAINT IN DEALING WITH SITUATION.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED:
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EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT US BOAT OWNERS BE WARNED AGAIN OF EXTREME DANGER OF SITUATION. IF WE CAN COMMUNICATE TO GOB THAT SOME SUCH STEP IS BEING TAKEN BY USG, IT MAY HAVE SHORT RUN EFFECT OF CALMING SITUATION.
SAYRE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, DISPUTES, FISHING LIMITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRASIL04942
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780262-0917
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780627/aaaaaxir.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95041b83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRASILIA 4766
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2233198
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS INCIDENT STEMMING FROM UNAUTHORIZED SHRIMPING IN BRAZILIAN WATERS
TAGS: EFIS, CPRS, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95041b83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014